

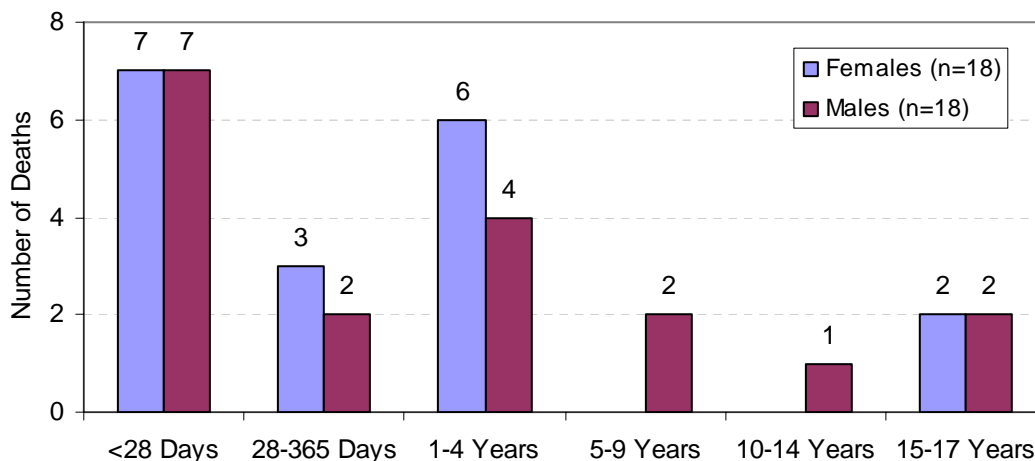


2006 CHILD FATALITY REVIEW FOR LA PAZ AND YUMA COUNTIES

DEMOGRAPHICS

This report provides information on the deaths of children who were residents of either La Paz or Yuma Counties. During 2006, there were 36 deaths among children younger than 18 years of age in the counties of La Paz and Yuma. Males and females each accounted for 50 percent of child deaths in these counties (n=18). Figure 1 shows deaths among children by gender and age group.

Figure 1. Deaths Among Children by Gender and Age Group, La Paz and Yuma Counties, Arizona 2006 (n=36)

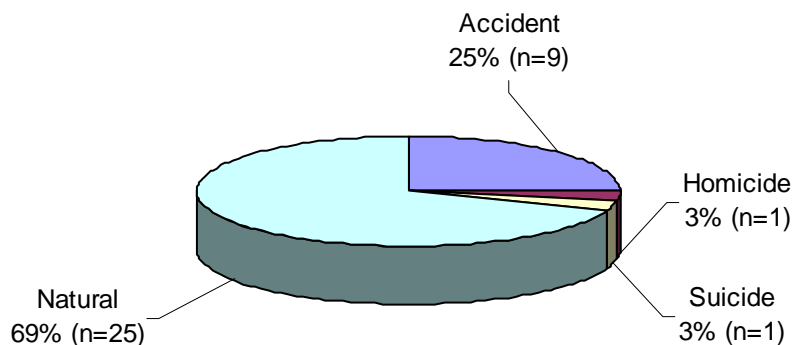


Deaths were over-represented among Non-Hispanic White children in these counties. Non-Hispanic White children comprised 24 percent of the population but 33 percent of the fatalities (n=12). Hispanic children comprised 67 percent of the population but 50 percent of the fatalities (n=18). The remaining deaths were among other races/ethnicities (17 percent, n=6).

CAUSE AND MANNER OF CHILD FATALITIES

Sixty-nine percent of deaths were natural (n=25); 25 percent were due to accidents (n=9); three percent were due to suicides (n=1); and three percent were due to homicides (n=1). Figure 2 shows deaths among children by manner.

**Figure 2. Deaths Among Children by Manner,
La Paz and Yuma Counties, Arizona 2006 (n=36)**



Twenty-five child deaths were natural, including 12 from medical causes, 11 from prematurity, and two from Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS). Seven children died in motor vehicle crashes, and two children drowned. Table 1 shows deaths among children by cause and manner.

Cause	Accident	Homicide	Suicide	Natural	Undetermined	Total
Medical*				12		12
Prematurity				11		11
Motor vehicle crash	7					7
SIDS				2		2
Drowning	2					2
Firearm			1			1
Stabbing		1				1
Total	9	1	1	25	0	36

*Excluding prematurity and SIDS

Among the seven motor vehicle crash deaths, one child was driving and five children were passengers. The location of one child was unknown to review teams. Of the five vehicle passengers who died in crashes, four were in back seats and one was in a front seat. There were no deaths among pedestrians.

PREVENTABILITY

Child Fatality Review Teams consider a child's death preventable if something could have been done (by an individual such as the caretaker or supervisor, or by the community as a whole) that would have prevented the death. Local Child Fatality Review Teams determined that 39 percent of the deaths among La Paz County and Yuma County children could have been prevented (n=14).

During the review of each child's death, teams identify factors believed to have contributed to the death. Although the presence of a contributing factor typically led to the determination that a death was preventable, this was not always the case. For example, the team might have concluded that an unsafe sleep environment (e.g. infant left sleeping on a couch) was a contributing factor in an unexpected infant death. However, the team may not have had sufficient information (e.g. autopsy report, adequate scene investigation) to determine if the death could have been prevented.

In La Paz and Yuma Counties, lack of supervision was a contributing factor in six child deaths (17 percent), and drugs and/or alcohol was a contributing factor in five deaths (14 percent). Lack of vehicle restraints contributed to two deaths (five percent), and access to pools contributed to two deaths (five percent). More than one factor may have been identified for each death. Table 2 shows the most common factors contributing to the deaths of child residents of La Paz and Yuma Counties.

Table 2. Contributing Factors for Deaths Among Children, La Paz and Yuma Counties, Arizona 2006		
Factor*	Number	Percent
Lack of supervision	6	17%
Drugs/alcohol	5	14%
Lack of vehicle restraint	2	5%
Access to pool	2	5%
*More than one factor may have been identified for each death		

CHILD FATALITIES IN LA PAZ AND YUMA COUNTIES COMPARED TO OTHER ARIZONA COUNTIES

This section provides comparisons between the deaths of children who resided in La Paz and Yuma Counties and the deaths of children who resided in the remaining 13 Arizona counties. During 2006, 36 children who were residents of La Paz or Yuma Counties died, and 1,054 children died who were residents of the other 13 counties. Thirty-nine percent of the deaths of La Paz County and Yuma County children could have been prevented (n=14), and 38 percent of child deaths in the remaining counties were determined to have been preventable (n=397).

Medical conditions were the leading cause of child deaths in La Paz and Yuma Counties (33 percent), as well as for the remainder of Arizona (37 percent). Prematurity accounted for 31 percent of deaths in La Paz and Yuma Counties and 26 percent of

deaths for the rest of Arizona. Motor vehicle crashes accounted for 19 percent of deaths in La Paz and Yuma Counties and 12 percent in the remaining counties. Table 3 shows the leading causes of child deaths for La Paz and Yuma counties compared to the rest of Arizona.

Table 3. Leading Causes of Child Deaths, La Paz and Yuma Counties, Arizona 2006			
La Paz and Yuma Counties (n=36)		Arizona, Excluding La Paz and Yuma Counties (n=1,054)	
Cause	Percent of Deaths	Cause	Percent of Deaths
Medical	33%	Medical	37%
Prematurity	31%	Prematurity	26%
Motor vehicle crash	19%	Motor vehicle crash	12%

Natural deaths accounted for the largest percentage of child deaths in La Paz and Yuma Counties (69 percent), as well as for the remainder of Arizona (65 percent). Accidents accounted for 25 percent of child deaths in La Paz and Yuma Counties, and 21 percent in the remaining counties. There were smaller percentages of suicides, homicides, and deaths of undetermined manner in La Paz and Yuma Counties, compared to the rest of the state. Table 4 shows deaths among children by manner for La Paz and Yuma Counties compared to the rest of Arizona.

Table 4. Deaths Among Children by Manner, La Paz and Yuma Counties, Arizona 2006			
La Paz and Yuma Counties (n=36)		Arizona, excluding La Paz and Yuma Counties (n=1,054)	
Manner	Percent of Deaths	Manner	Percent of Deaths
Natural	69%	Natural	65%
Accident	25%	Accident	21%
Suicide	3%	Homicide	6%
Homicide	3%	Suicide	4%
Undetermined	0%	Undetermined	4%